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State of Utah

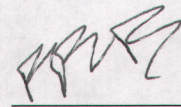
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director


Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA
Division Director

Minerals Inspection Report

Reviewed 

Report Date:

Mine Name: Vernal Phosphate Mine	Permit Number: M/047/0007	Mine Status: Active
Operator Name: Simplot Phosphates, LLC	Inspection Date: 03/21/2014	Permit Fees: Paid
Inspector(s): Lynn Kunzler	Inspection Time: 11:00 am	Bond Amount: \$6,804,000
Attendee(s): John Spencer, Bryan Maxfield (DWR), 	Weather:	Bond Escalation: 6/20/2015
Inspection Purpose: Review expansion area for Sage Grouse Habitat and Mitigation		Prior Inspection:

Conclusions and Recommendations

Elements of Inspection		Evaluated & Commented	Enforcement
1.	Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Protection of Drainages/Erosion Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Revegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

As per the State's Sage Grouse Initiative Plan, We met on site to review the proposed expansion area, to determine if it really was sage grouse habitat, the level or type of use, and discuss mitigation measures that would be expected. Much of the expansion area has significant PJ which limits the use by the grouse. at least the area that will be mined for the first 4-5 years fall in this area. towards the northern boundary of the expansion area, it does open up and there is some potential for lek habitat but very limited nesting or brooding habitat. This area would likely be used more if scattered PJ trees were removed.

Mitigation was discussed on a 4:1 acre ratio (4 acres of mitigation for each 1 acre disturbed). Certainly the lower areas, once reclaimed would provide habitat and should be considered as part of the mitigation plan. The company has been participating in chaining projects off site (but adjacent to the mine) in the last couple of years. These areas would also be considered as part of the mitigation.

Inspector's Signature: 

CC:

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